

a1 (PC) capable of providing a control signal (video signal, SVGA signal, television signal, etc.) to mask 20. Computer 40 can receive commands from a user via interface 36. Interface 36 can include a keyboard, a display screen, a touch screen, a mouse, a trackball or other devices for displaying and receiving commands.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 11 through 20 with the following paragraph:

a2 Computer system 30 can generate the control signal indicative of the image to be transferred to wafer 12. The control signal is generated based upon commands received from interface 36, and from data stored in database 44, media storage unit 38 or database 42. Database 44, unit 38, and database 42 can store representations of graphical images associated with IC structures, such as, transistors, vias, capacitors, pads, conductive lines, etc. Further, databases 44, 42 and unit 38 can store the images for a number of layers to be formed on wafer 12. For example, the layout for metal layers (metal 1, metal 2, metal 3, etc.) can be stored in system 30.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 26 through page 8, line 2 with the following paragraph:

a3 System 10 can provide ASIC-type functionality by selecting parts from database 44, media storage unit 38, or database 42 in accordance with a program to provide images on wafer 12. For example, a software program selecting transistors, diodes and their interconnections can be executed by computer 40 to cause mask 20 to provide the appropriate structures on wafer 12.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 3 through 7 with the following paragraph:

a4 The individual images for the individual parts can be stored in database 44, media storage unit 38 or database 42. In this way, computer 40 only operates a minimal software program describing the integrated circuit (IC). Images for individual components are retrieved from unit 38 or database 42 when needed.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 17 through 21 with the following paragraph:

as *sup.* Database 44, media storage unit 38 and database 42 can be updated periodically to provide structures for particular processes, technologies, new structures, etc. In this way, updates do not require reformation of fixed masks for revision of the program executed by computer 40 to generate the image on mask 20.

Please replace the paragraph on page 10, lines 21 through 30 with the following paragraph:

a6 As shown in FIGURE 6, image 150 is provided for conductive lines on a metal layer provided on wafer 12. Mask 20 is most usable in situations where resolution associated with image 150 is not extremely demanding. In another area, mask 20 can be utilized to provide large pads for contacts and large power and ground planes for the integrated circuits on wafer 12. In this way, the same mask 20 could be utilized for a variety of chips even though the contact, pad, ground and power plane images are different. Mask 20 would be continued to image the appropriate conductive plane, power plane and ground plane image. Image 150 is shown as an example only.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

The specifications and drawings have been amended to correct minor drafting errors. No new matter is needed.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.